



**Monforton School District #27** EXHIBIT 5  
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DATE Jan 14, 2011  
HB 15

January 13, 2011

To: Long Range Planning Subcommittee

From: Lynne Scalia, Superintendent, Monforton School District 27 *Lynne Scalia*

Re: Support of HB 15, Department of Commerce Quality Schools Facility Grant Program

The Monforton School District has been the recipient of the follow grants administered by the Quality Schools Grant Program:

Project	Grant Allocation	Project Accomplishments
Quick Start Projects, HB 645	\$114,960	Energy audit; Energy efficient furnaces; energy efficient light fixtures with motion sensors; insulation installed
Planning Grant	\$ 25,000	Master planning/program planning for school district
Project Grant, 2011	\$358,480	Install fire sprinkler and fire alarm system; mold abatement
<b>Applied for, but did receive a 2013 Quality Schools Project Grant.</b> The District requested \$385,737 to address dangerous site safety deficiencies in the area of bus and parent pick-up and drop-off areas.		

**Grant Planning and Administration.** The Department of Commerce Quality Schools Grant Program staff has administered grants with both efficiency and flexibility. The staff was extremely helpful as I wrote the grants and gave good critical feedback. Our District Business Manager has found the Department to be prompt when requesting funds. The financial tracking of the project is organized well. This has resulted in contractors and sub-contractors being paid in a timely fashion.

**Support of HB 15.** The Monforton School District, created in 1886, has much deferred maintenance. Our taxpayers just passed a \$3.5 M bond in order to move our students from the 1888 school. This program is essential in beginning to address, over the long-term, its public assets. This serves taxpayers in a number of ways in which we may not be cognizant. Because of the District's focus on long-range planning as a result of the planning grant, the energy audit and the facilities condition index (conducted for all school facilities in Montana), Monforton was able to show evidence of long-range facilities planning as we prepared for our credit rating analysis. And although a District bond rating is based on a number of factors, most out of our control, for the Monforton taxpayer, a comprehensive long-range facilities plan means a lower interest rate on the \$3.5 M debt we are about to issue. A .5% lower interest rate equates to \$230,000 saved by taxpayers over the course of 15 years of debt. We likely would have not had the planning resources had it not been for this program.